

Dear Parishioners,

Alexander Smith, the Scottish poet, says, *“There is one more good thing about winter in that it brings us Christmas through the bleak December. The thought of the coming festival is pleasant, like the reflection of a fire on our faces”* And still, the winter revolves around Christmastide. It is our faces through which we radiate joy to the world.

The Holy Father tells us that it is not about what we get for Christmas, but about how our Christmas makes others happy. This is the desire of every parent, to see their children happy.

*Far away and long ago, a shining star appeared
To lead the way for three wise men
To a baby who drew near.
His memory lives on at Christmastime
And all throughout the year
That love and kindness are the way
For all who want to hear.*

May love and kindness grace your home in Christmas cheer. And so, in the words of Robert Louis Stevenson, *“Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate, and open the door of love, all over the world. May Christmas morning make us happy to be your children and bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.” AMEN*

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor

